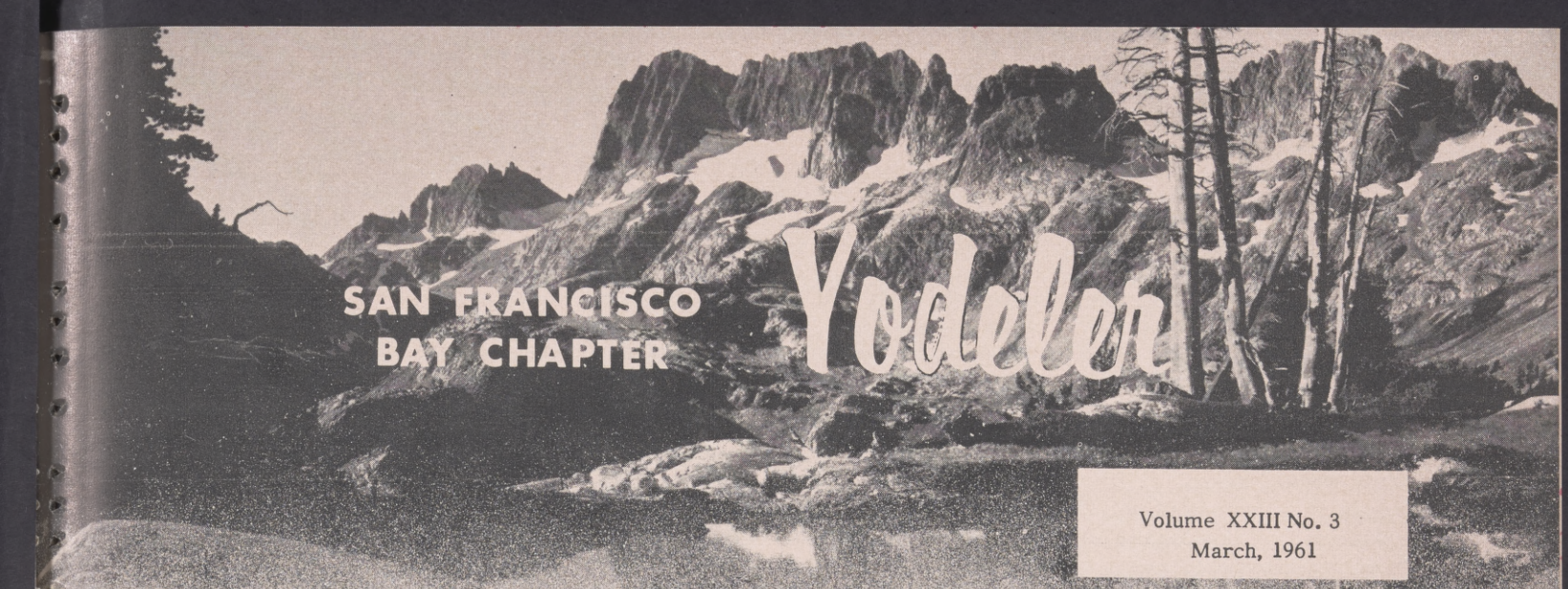
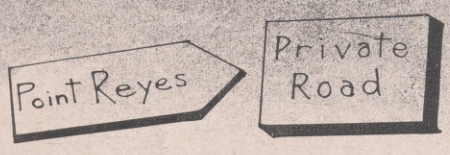


SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

Yodeler

Volume XXIII No. 3
March, 1961



The best weapon to take up in defense of Point Reyes National Seashore at this moment is the pen. We are all unhappy to see pictures of a real estate development growing up in the heart of the Peninsula. No access to the beach except for private owners will be the universal story wherever this occurs, and the only way to slow down the developments is to make it quite clear that the people really intend to make a National Seashore on Point Reyes peninsula.

Dr. Joel Gustafson, president of the Point Reyes Foundation, is especially anxious that Marin residents write to Representative Clem Miller in support of his bill on Point Reyes (H 2775). Dr. Gustafson is alerting the hundreds of people who signed the original petition. The Citizens for Regional Recreation and Parks in the San Francisco Bay Area have released a fine statement to all parts of the State urging letters be sent to Senators Claire Engle and Thomas Kuchel, and also to the new (and apparently friendly), Secretary of the Interior, Steward L. Udall, whose address is 18th and C St. NW., Washington, D.C. Just the name of the city and their official titles is enough address to remember.

It is essential to get a clear and immediate statement of Federal intention to acquire this land. Your personal opinion will help more than anything else just now. CMC

THE MORLEY FUND

This summer the Morley Fund will be able to award 3 scholarships from the Bay Chapter for a 2-week Sierra Club trip. The primary qualification for candidates is an inerest in and a willingness to support the objectives of the Sierra Club. If you know of any adults wo might be interested and eligible, please send their names and addresses to Eleonore Ginno, 797 San Diego road, Berkeley 7, before April 1, 1961

LETTER

Yodeleditor:

It was with deep regret that I read in the Yodeler of the recent acceptance by the board of directors of the Sierra Club of a proposal to build a trail from the Yosemite Valley to Lake Tenaya through Tenaya Canyon. The proposal violates, in my opinion, one of the basic concepts of the Sierra Club; that is, to retain wilderness in its original form as nearly as possible.

This is a superb patch of wilderness. I know. I have traversed Tenaya Canyon at least a dozen times. Further, it has trails on either rim which may be followed from Lake Tenaya to Yosemite Valley, and they both offer superb views into the canyon. The new Tioga road also has a turnout which affords a splendid view down the canyon as it practically "looks down its throat." Much was written about the destruction of glacial polished granite in building the new Tioga road. I am wondering what slopes will be dynamited to make a trail through Tenaya Canyon. Will S.L. Foster's Initial Ledge be blasted further back to make it safe for hikers? Will the wonderful glacial polish of Waterwheel Valley be destroyed so that they won't slip? What trees will be cut and where will the path be hewn through the rich mountain jungle of Lost Valley?

I don't understand it. I think there are enough trails in our Sierra without adding more. First a trail and then a road: A trail to let more people enjoy the area; then,

CONTINUED PAGE 2

HAVE YOU SEEN RAINBOW BRIDGE?

With the loss of the beautiful Glen Canyon, river tourers are reminded of two early trips this spring. Trips are scheduled for April 23rd, for 7 days with the Hatches and March 26, for 5 days with Georgie White. For many this will be the last opportunity to enjoy this classic and beautiful trip. For more information call Dirk Breymann at JO 7-4877, or Lou Elliott, OL 5-3801.

NEW MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

"...the fact remains that people climb mountains, and that there were many mountaineers among the organizers of the club. Mountaineering has been one of the club's chief interests ever since."—Sierra Club Handbook, 1947.

But has it been? In the 14 or so years since this statement appeared, "mountaineering" has appeared to divide itself into two opposite camps: Rock Climbing or Knapsacking. Then, on February 6 of this year the Executive Committee approved a new (though, in essence, very old) section: Mountaineering.

Its aims? "If you draw a triangle and put Knapsacking on one side and Rock Climbing on the other — and then put Mountaineering half-way between, you have a fair idea," states committeeman Lyn Wright. "It's hard to define", he continues, "but it's largely in what's undertaken — larger objectives like rock, snow and ice. Mountaineering is finding the 'sporting route' but it isn't prolonged climbing nor technical climbs on high-angle rocks, as practiced by the RCS."

To be noted is the fact that in the past 18 months the ad hoc Organization Committee for a Chapter Mountaineering Section has put in at least 250 man-days of instruction. Training sections have been held twice a week (one each, Cragmont and Mira Loma) with from 10 to 40 people turning out for each session. In addition there are monthly round table discussions in both the East Bay and San Francisco.

Mountaineering Section aims, specifically: (1) to offer basic rock, snow and ice training under unified, qualified leadership; (2) to draw together, around a nucleus of skilled leaders, those wishing to undertake

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Sierra Club Yodeler

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As a service to club members non-commercial classified ads will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line. Check must accompany copy.

Commercial advertising is solicited. Please request rate card.

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DELTA STATE PARK PROPOSED

Club member Loyal Mealer lives at Walnut Grove and is in a very strategic position to know and evaluate the stripping of levees which has been carried on in the Delta by the Army Engineers, especially as he is a landowner himself. He gave the Club Conservation Committee a most interesting description and report, at the February meeting, on the Delta and the possibilities of creating a State Park at The Meadows near Walnut Grove. This is a piece of the original, unreclaimed, delta country, about 400 acres of waterways, low islets, well wooded though subject to winter floods and tidal rise in water level. It is south of the main channel and is reached bu a series of river by-ways. There is a railroad trestle across it but otherwise it is a remnant of natural scenery most suitable for a park with particular appeal to small boat owners. The present landowner considered a commercial marina development but changed his mind and is holding it as it is for the present. There are Indian mounds there, enclosed by a ring of the only poison oak within miles, possibly planted as a protection.

As for the work on the levees, Loyal has been asking the landowners how they feel about it. As a landowner himself, he knows the farmers, many of whom have been on their own land for forty years. He finds they are not worried about vegetation weakening the levees. About 65 miles of the 150 miles of main river channel have been cleared as repair work on the levee became necessary. Senator Kuchel has asked that a study be made of this problem, and will introduce an appropriation bill. —C.M.C.

RIVER TOURING NOTES

March is the month for the River Touring Section's spring training course. On Wednesday, March 1, at 8 p.m. we will start off with a Boat Show at Live Oak Recreation Center, Shattuck near Rose in Berkeley. All types of kayaks will be shown, and maybe some canoes too. The various types of boats will be discussed in the light of touring, white-water, cost, and so on. New and used boats will be on sale. Then there will be a movie of kayaks in action.

The rest of the training course will be held at the Oakland YMCA at 21st and Telegraph, Oakland. On March 8, there will be an illustrated lecture on beginners' paddle techniques, navigation on moving water, and simple phenomena of river currents. On March 15, there will be a talk on river safety and leadership, sailing and competition in paddle boats. On March 22, the talk will deal with kayak surfing, advanced paddle techniques, navigation, and further pointers on hydraulics.

A graded series of boating trips has been integrated with the lectures (see your Schedule). Try out a boat on the estuary with us on March 5. You do not need to bring your own. If you are really interested, be sure to come to the advanced sessions as well as the first ones. You learn fast on white water, and the course will not be repeated this year. Also be sure to pass the appropriate tests ahead of time so that you can paddle on the trips. Call trip leaders and committee members for information on these. —Elsa Bailey

LETTER (Cont. from P. 1)

why not a road to let still more enjoy it? There is plenty of work to be done to keep existing trails in repair. This money from an "unnamed source" could possibly be put to better use in some area of true conservation where it is sorely needed.

I think the Sierra Club should let others propose trails and roads and should confine itself to helping to keep what little remaining wilderness we have as it is. Contrary to popular opinion, Tenaya Canyon is not an inaccessible region, but quite accessible to an able hiker.

I owe much to the Sierra Club for the great work it has done in conservation and the wonderful fund of information made available through bulletins, guides, etc. Indeed, it is in a large part responsible for the opinions I have set down here. I also owe much to Tenaya Canyon for the wonderful, happy hours I have spent there, and for the good feeling I get just knowing it is there. I suppose many have and hope that many more will see and enjoy it as I have—but not by trail.

Sincerely yours,
Bruce B. Cooke
2826 Monticello Ave.
Oakland, California
Feb. 18, 1961

JUNIORS TAKE NOTE

Every Spring for the last few years the River Touring Section has had a training program of lectures integrated with progressively difficult trips. This year the first program is on March 8. (Consult your Schedule.

This year the introductory trip will be on Sunday, March 5, on the Bay Shore of Alameda at the west end of Park Street. There is a picnic beach and usually still water. As mentioned in the schedule the leader is Glenn Gaumer. Juniors are whole-heartedly welcome so please accept this as an invitation to a new and exhilarating sport. I hope to see you there. —Bob Elliott

DEVIL'S BACKBONE HIKE

"El Espinazo de Diablo" or "The Devil's Backbone", a curved, knobby ridge in the mountains of Sonoma County was followed by over 70 Sierra Clubbers in a joint hike sponsored January 22 by the Redwood and San Francisco chapters. The route led through redwood groves and clumps of myrtle in the winter hush of the forest, brooding over mist-shrouded valleys and deep ravines.

Hikers passed through ancient farmlands with forgotten orchards and past a deserted homestead overgrown with shrubs and trees gone wild. Though not a difficult climb, the exertion was enough to send the blood surging and keep the well-wrapped hikers from getting chilled. The hike started from Armstrong State Park near Guerneville; Jewel Bell of Santa Rosa was leader.

—Anita Garrett

CONFERENCE TO SAVE YOU SOME MONEY

All Fools' Day is April 2 this year for conservationists who fail to register for the 7th Biennial Wilderness Conference "package deal" before the end of March.

Details:

Conference data — April 7-8, Sheraton Palace Hotel, San Francisco.

Conference DEAL — Everything for the two days — Registration fee ($3.00); Friday banquet, Speaker, Justice William O. Douglas, ($6.00); Saturday lunch, Speaker, Congressman John Saylor, Pa., ($4.00) — all for $12.00 if paid by the end of March.

Full cost for the Conference will be in effect after April 1. Students may register for the full Conference $2 less, either way.

The organization committee urges members to make up tables of 10 for the banquet and luncheon.

Further information is available from the Club offices.

SUMMER TRIP SAMPLER A SUCCESS

The 50-mile long section of the Sacramento River between Redding and Red Bluff was chosen for a shake-down cruise for Lou Elliott's new type of raft consisting of three 5-ft. by 24-ft. rubber air-filled pontoons lashed together and fitted with oar locks. Although the raft resembled an enormous floating air mattress it proved to be a very comfortable and seaworthy craft for the 21 river touring members who made the cluttered deck their home for the two day duration of the voyage. Because there are long sections of comparitively flat water the raft was outfitted with 7 1/2 hp Mercury outboard to speed it along.

As we floated downstream from Redding we noticed many curious onlookers rushing to the porches of their river-front homes to catch a glimpse of the strange-looking rubber mattress sprawled with adults and children eating, drinking, sleeping or singing to the music of two guitars and a banjo. The fishermen along the banks seemed to shake their heads in disbelief.

The chief purpose of this early season river touring trip was to test out gear and our ability to handle the cold and wet weather. Our raft was loaded with tents, water proofed tarps and warm clothing and we seemed well prepared for a deluge. The first night we camped out on a grassy beach at the mouth of Cottonwood Creek. Although rain was forecast earlier, it was a beautiful clear night. How is that for a switch? We all ended up getting a sun tan instead of testing our gear.

The scenery could have never been better for the air was clear as crystal and the snowy peaks of Shasta and Lassen seemed just a few miles away. The river was high so most of the snags were well covered with water. We did manage to run a few nice haystacks and break an oarlock when we tangled with a willow thicket in the fast current. The voyage was without mishap until Mike Mulford from Palo Alto with his kayak got sucked into a whirlpool at the upper end of Iron Canyon. For a moment both the boat and the rider disappeared into the swirling green current. We quickly put the outboard into reverse and picked the dripping victim out of the icy water. After a quick change into dry clothes he returned to his kayak, none the worse for wear.

The prettiest part of the trip is the section through Iron Canyon where the river cuts through vertical walls of lava and the water swirls over some jagged chunks of obsidian. Toward Red Bluff the river flattens out and the banks are tiered with homes. We were again greeted by people standing on their porches waving their arms at 3:30 Sunday afternoon when we drifted into Red Bluff, thus ending two warm, spring-like days on the good old Sacramento.

Eric Gerstung

SNOWSHOEING TO BRADLEY

Seven jovial snowshoers left Powder Bowl on Saturday morning, February 18, hard on the heels of Snowshoe Peterson. We passed first through a forest of pines and firs, then along lively streams and finally climbed the southwest side of KT22, from which we saw Ward peak and adjacent peaks with banners of blowing snow. At lunch, along a little stream, Phyllis Lindley informed us, it was 43 degrees and that the wind was blowing at the rate of 10 m.p.h. After climbing a gradual slope, we reached Bradley Hut without difficulty, to be met there by Bob Stephenson, of the Redwood Chapter, who had a fire going for us. We spent the afternoon exploring the area, and two snowshoers ventured to the top of a high, windy ridge for a view of Lake Tahoe and surrounding peaks. One energetic foursome played Hearts until "Soup" was announced.

The evening sky shone with a brilliant display of familiar stars—Orion, the Dipper, and Venus, and millions of others. But the wind was nippy on noses, and the warm hut welcomed us back. No snoring disturbed that peaceful night.

Sunday broke clear and sunny, and picture-taking occupied the morning. Then the return journey began. We found a sunny spot for lunch - one with a grand view and a glimpse of a beaver dam. We were glad to see them still around. We enjoyed the trip so much that we look forward to another weekend, another hut and another journey to the snowy mountains.

—Doug Peterson

BIRDING BY SNOWSHOE

On the weekend of February 4 and 5, ten pairs of binoculars manned by ten eager snowshoers scoured both rins of Yosemite Valley for the Great Grey Owl — unsuccessfully. With "trail master" Pauline Lee and "ornithologists" Lynn Robbins and Phyllis Lindley, these snowshoers-cum-birders chalked up 32 species, counting 550 individual birds for the weekend.

Saturday's hunt took us up the Old Coulterville Road to Big Meadow. On the way we discovered three Pigmy Nuthatches cavorting about a hole in a dead snag. Williamson's Sapsucker was also a new one for the record.

Sunday's tour, along the old Glacier Point road to Peregoy Meadow, was noteworthy more for fresh snow than for birds. But we did find out that chickadees are numerous here, compared to their virtual absence from the mild, southwest-facing slope.

As a departure in the snowshoe schedule, winter birding in Yosemite promises to become a regular feature.

—Phyllis Lindley

MOUNTAINEERS (Cont.)

serious training and climbing on the greater peaks in the company of qualified companions; (3) to defend the mountains, the snowfield, the summit from spoliation.

To the chapter member who participates in rock climbing, local walks, knapsacking, conservation, skiing or snowshoeing, the formation of the Mountaineering Section means some or any or all of the following:

*climbing mountains for enjoyment — and by sporting routes

*studying basic rock, ice and snow climbing

*training in mountaineering under a unified leadership.

Finally, according to Wright and Francis Walcott, organization committee chairman, the new Mountaineering Section, "We don't propose to undertake the big technical climbs of the RCS or try to duplicate their rather elaborate equipment. Neither will we be the 'Hey, look at me — no ropes!' school. Instead, we follow the philosophy that the more one goes to the mountains the more he finds pleasure in the higher rocks.

"Furthermore, we hope to bring mountaineering back in its truer sense, combining in a way both knapsacking and rock climbing—and yet, by offering some of each, offering something completely different:

"We will walk in and enjoy our mountains. Yet, though the trail might be the easier way to our destination we will take the mountaineering way, the climbing way, if it proves more adventurous.

"And so, those who enjoy the mountains need to learn to climb. But because it is difficult for one to judge the limitations of one's skills he also needs trained companions.

"The Mountaineering Section proposes to provide these companions especially to those whose enjoyment of the mountains seems to vary with the altitude."

A.R.

EAST BAY DINNERS

East Bay Dinner offers two fine programs in March.

On Wednesday, March 8, Halldor Helgason, a Sierra Clubber and an East Bay Dinners regular, will show slides of Iceland, his native country.

Two weeks later, on March 22, Joanne Taylor will show pictures she took in India while there as a teacher of children of Kaiser engineering personnel.

Excellent programs have increased the popularity of East Bay Dinners this year, and if you wish to join the 6:30 dinner, reservations are necessary two days beforehand. Consult your Schedule for details. No reservations are required for the slide shows, however. Everyone is invited and welcome.

—J.D.

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SOME EXCHANGE TRIPS

The following events are selected from the outing schedules of other chapters, with the thought that you might like to adventure farther afield on your weekend walks and field trips. For further information get in touch with the leader or the chapter sponsoring the outing (if written reply is requested, include a self-addressed, STAMPED envelope). When in doubt, take a canteen and a trail lunch on outings.

LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

SUNDAY, March 5: BEACH HIKE. Meet at the beach state park, Rio del Mar, 10:30 a.m. Bring warm clothing. Leisurely. Leaders: Nadine Kolbe, AX 6-9520, and Barbara Holbrook, CH 3-1356.

SUNDAY, March 12. HIKE ON SARGEANT RANCH. Meet 9:00 a.m. Drive on U.S. 101 5 mi. so. of Gilroy, turn right just beyond concrete silos and continue one mile on old highway. Leader: Erich Hofman, DA 2-4906 or 2-1201.

SUNDAY, March 18. EL SERENO TO MONTEVINA. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Montalvo, off Saratoga-Los Gatos road, about 1/2 mile south of Saratoga. Leader: Max Carson, EL 4-8465

REDWOOD CHAPTER

SUNDAY, March 5. HIKE ON WILD HOG HILL. Meet at City plaza, center of Healdsburg, at 9:30 a.m. Hike 10 miles or less. Leaders: Ernie Krumm, TW 4-2632 Mon.-Fri.; and Bob Stephens, VA 3-6239

SUNDAY, March 12. BEACH HIKE. Meet at Valley Ford at 9:00 a.m. Leaders: Marjorie Duerson, PO 2-6040, and Bob Stephens, VA 3-6239.

SUNDAY, March 26. PROGRESSIVE CARAVAN. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at College Ave. and Laguna Road, Santa Rosa. Walk through Griffith Woods, Sturgeon's Mill and Joy Woods, with car driving between walks. Leader: Harry Hertenstein, WE 8-2972.

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

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MOTHER LODE CHAPTER

SUNDAY, March 5. GEOLOGY TRIP. Guided geological tour of Cache Creek—Clear Lake area. Bring pick and collecting bag. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in city park in Davis, or 9:15 a.m. in Capay, west of Woodland at Arbuckle road junction. Leader: Don Emerson, SK 3-2539, Rte. 1, Willowbank 13, Davis.

SATURDAY, March 18. BENICIA STATE CAPITOL Meet at 11:00 a.m. at Old State Capitol, Benecia. After tour of building, take Benicia ferry, drive east on Rte. 24 to Brannen Island State Park, 2:00 p.m. Bring wood, and food for group barbecue. Leader: Dick Snow, SK 3-5563, 614 E. 10th St., Davis.

SCHEDULE SUPPLEMENT

SUNDAY, March 5: HIKING—HOOD MOUNTAIN. The chartered bus trip that appears in the schedule now has leaders: BOB BOELEN and DICK MONGES. Reservation deadline March 1. Hood Mountain is lovely at this time of the year with fine forests, nice meadows, many springs old cabins, etc.

MARCH 11-12: SNOWSHOE TRAINING—Instructions will be given at Clair Tappaan Lodge for anyone who wants to learn the art of traveling on snowshoes in the mountains. This is for rank beginners—make reservations at the Sierra Club office and be sure to send a card saying you are going to be there to Doug Peterson, 135 Steiner St., San Francisco. Details for what to wear and bring will be relayed to you before that date.

MARCH 18-19: SKI TOURING: Ostrander Lake Hut—Reserve hut space at once! Deadline was February 27. Bedding $3.00 per person or bring your own bag. Sat. dinner, $3.00, Sunday breakfast, $1.50. No reservations needed for camping. Leaders: Pete Graf, Bob Jasperson.

APRIL 9: HIKING—FAIRFAX CIRCULAR—Co-ordinator Dorothy Moen has moved to 3330 Broderick, San Francisco 23, Apt. 4, WE 1-8878.

AUDUBON CAMP CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Golden Gate Branch of National Audubon Society will award five half-scholarships for outdoor nature study at the society's 1961 summer camp at Sugar Bowl Lodge near Donner Summitt.

Fred Nora, 2535 Regent Street, Apt. 14, Berkeley 4, California, is chairman of the 1961 scholarship committee. He invites teachers, youth and outdoor club leaders whose job includes furthering nature and conservation knowledge to apply.

Deadline for applications is April 1, 1961.

Scholarship winners may attend any one of the five two-week camp sessions, which open June 25 and end September 2. Each half scholarship is worth $55 of the $110 fee for tuition, room, board, and transportation on field trips. Campers who wish two units of college credit arrange this and pay additional fees at camp.

FOR SALE: Used Hammer foldboat, good condition; slalom single, complete with spraydeck, keelstrips, paddle. Knows its way on all California rivers. $99.50. John Bombay, OL 2-0139.

CHILD CARE, preferably 2-5 year-olds, by experienced Dutch Indonesian, Mrs. Sommers, 1509 Henry St., Berkeley (behind new Co-op.). Weekly or day rates. No telephone. Further information from Neva Snell, LA 5-8270.

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